



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: December 2, 2002

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release:

CAUSE RELEASED IN CAMPER FIRE

Date/Time of Incident: December 2, 2002, 08:10 a.m.

Type of Emergency: Outbuilding Fire

Location(s): Behind 9350 Sheldon Road

Incident Number: 02130764

Elk Grove, CA – The Elk Grove Community Services District's (CSD) Fire Investigation Unit has released its findings from the fatal camper fire that occurred this morning in East Elk Grove.

Fire investigators have determined the cause of the fire to be accidental in nature stemming from the improper installation and use of a wood stove. The stove was situated in an add-on shed structure that extended from the camper. According to fire investigators, the adult occupants of the camper had lit a fire inside the stove this morning presumably to warm the living space. The heat from the stove is believed to have ignited nearby combustibles and resulted in the fire that killed a five year-old boy. Findings from the investigation are preliminary pending autopsy results.

This tragic incident was the result of a culmination of bad circumstances including substandard living conditions and lack of adult supervision. This incident also points out, however, the dangers present for all residents as temperatures drop and people must rely on a variety of tools to heat their homes. The Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department encourages the public to practice safe heating habits this winter. These habits should include the proper installation and maintenance of an approved heating system. If using portable space heaters, they should be located at least 3 feet away from flammable materials and come equipped with a tip-over shut-off switch. Fireplaces and wood stoves should be inspected and cleaned, if needed, prior to the first use. Fireplace ashes should be doused with water and stored in a metal container until thoroughly cooled. For more information on keeping your family safe during the winter season, visit your local fire station or contact the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department non-emergency number at (916) 685-9502.

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